

## Message Text

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64

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 PC-01 SCCT-01

SAM-01 /059 W

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R 160651Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2000

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

DIA WASHDC

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 7310

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS MY

SUBJ: COUNTER-TERRORIST DEVELOPMENTS: POLICY MOUNT MAJOR  
SEARCH OPERATION IN "NEW VILLAGE" NEAR KUALA LUMPUR

REF: KL 6953 (R 280200Z NOV 75)

1. SUMMARY: POLICE CONDUCT MAJOR OPERATION TO ROOT OUT SUBVERSIVE AND CRIMINAL ELEMENTS FROM "NEW VILLAGE" NEAR KUALA LUMPUR. RAID ALSO SIGNIFICANT FOR PRECAUTIONS TAKEN MINIMIZE POLICE "ABUSES." POLICE LOCATE WHAT BELIEVED TO BE HIDEOUT OF KILLERS OF SPECIAL BRANCH DETECTIVE ASSASSINATED IN MALACCA NOV 21 AND HAVE PUBLICIZED NAMES OF PRIME SUSPECTS. COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA PRINTSHOP DISCOVERED, LITERALLY UNDERGROUND, IN K.L. SUBURB. POLICE INVESTIGATION OF KILLING OF PERAK CHIEF POLICE OFFICE AND DRIVER CONTINUING, BREAK-AWAY MARXIST/LENINIST FACTION OF COMMUNIST PARTY OF MALACCA HELD RESPONSIBLE. END SUMMARY.

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2. LOCAL PRESS REPORTED MAJOR HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCH OPERATION

BY POLICE AT "NEW VILLAGE" OF SERI KEMBANGAN (FORMERLY KNOWN AS SERDANG BARU), JUST TWO MILES SOUTH OF KUALA LUMPUR FEDERAL TERRITORY BOUNDARY, EARLY MORNING HOURS DEC 14. POLICE UNITS, INCLUDING SPECIAL BRANCH, POLICE FIELD FORCE AND FEDERAL RESERVE UNIT, TOOK PART IN RAIDS. TOTAL POLICE PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN OPERATION REPORTEDLY OVER 1,200. AREA WAS PLACED UNDER EIGHT-HOUR CURFEW TO FACILITATE SEARCH OF OVER 2,500 HOMES AND SCREENING OF OVER 5,000 INHABITANTS. POLICE SEARCH TEAMS FOR EACH HOUSE INCLUDED ONE MALE OFFICER, ONE FEMALE OFFICER AND THREE OTHERS. 1,300 VEHICLES ALSO SEARCHED.

3. CODE-NAMED "OPERASI SULUH" ("OPERATION TORCH"), RAID WAS DIRECTED BY DEPUTY INSPECTOR OF MALAYSIAN POLICE, DATUK MAHMOOD YUNOS, ASSISTED BY OTHER SENIOR POLICE OFFICIALS. OBJECTIVE WAS TO SEARCH FOR "ANTI-NATIONAL AND CRIMINAL ELEMENTS WHO WERE VERY ACTIVE IN SERI KEMBANGAN AS WELL AS IN THE FEDERAL TERRITORY AND SELANGOR STATE."

4. FOLLOWING SIMILAR WIDE SCALE SEARCH OPERATIONS (1,000 HOUSES SEARCHED, 2,500 PERSONS SCREENED 13 SUSPECTS HELD) POLICE ANNOUNCED DEC 14 DISCOVERY OF HIDEOUT IN SEGAMAT, JOHORE STATE, APPARENTLY USED BY KILLERS OF SPECIAL BRANCH DETECTIVE LOH IN MALACCA, NOV 21 (REFTEL). POLICE PUBLISHED NAMES OF SIX PRIME SUSPECTS IN KILLING, WHO THEY ALSO BELIEVE WERE INVOLVED IN ASSASSINATION OF ONE SB DETECTIVE IN MALACCA APRIL 20, 1974, AND ATTEMPTED MURDER OF ANOTHER THERE ON JUNE 11, 1975. SUSPECTS REPORTEDLY ARE MEMBERS OF MAIN LINE COMMUNIST PARTY OF MALAYA (CPM), RATHER THAN THE CPM-MARXIST-LENINIST OR CPM-REVOLUTIONARY FACTION.

5. ON DEC 16, ACTING ON "INFORMATION FROM PUBLIC" AS WELL AS THAT OBTAINED FROM INTERROGATION OF "HIGH RANKING UNDERGROUND AGENT" SHOT AND CAPTURED BY POLICE IN KUALA LUMPUR DEC 11, POLICE DISCOVERED COMMUNIST PRINT SHOP UNDERNEATH A HUT IN K.L. SUBURB. POLICE ARRESTED TWO SUSPECTED MNLA (MALAYAN NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT -- POLITICAL WING OF CHIN PENG'S COMMUNIST PARTY OF MALAYA) AGENTS SLEEPING IN THE HUT AND CONFISCATED DUPLICATING EQUIPMENT AND LARGE QUANTITY COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA LITERATURE, INCLUDING VARIOUS BANNED BOOKS ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN PRC.

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6. MEANWHILE, POLICE INVESTIGATION OF NOV 13, 1975 ASSASSINATION OF PERAK STATE CHIEF POLICE OFFICER KOO AND HIS DRIVER STILL UNDERWAY, WITH OVER 200 PERSONS DETAINED SO FAR IN MASSIVE POLICE SWEEPS. POLICE REPORTEDLY BELIEVE, BASED ON PAMPHLETS FOUND AT SCENE, THAT KOO KILLING WAS WORK OF BREAKAWAY MARXIST-LENINIST FACTION OF CPM, PROBABLY AS ACT OF ONE-UPMANSHIP AGAINST OTHER FACTIONS.

7. COMMENT: INCLUSION IN SEARCH TEAMS IN DEC 14 RAID OF OFFICERS, BOTH MALE AND FEMALE, IN ADDITION TO THREE "SEARCHERS" A WISE STEP AND OBVIOUSLY ATTEMPT AVOID PROBLEMS SUCH AS ENCOUNTERED DURING POLICE SWEEPS AFTER SEPT 3 GRENADING OF POLICE FIELD FORCES CAMP WHEN POLICE WERE ACCUSED OF HEAVY HANDEDNESS AND VARIOUS ABUSES (TWO CONSTABLES LATER WERE CHARGED WITH ARMED ROBBERY). ALTHOUGH MASSIVE POLICE SEARCHES OF NEW VILLAGES ROUTINELY ARE MOUNTED FROM TIME TO TIME IN VARIOUS COMMUNIST "HOTBEDS," ESPECIALLY IN PERAK AND PAHANG STATE, THIS IS LARGEST SUCH OPERATION IN RECENT MEMORY IN K.L. ENVIRONS AND THUS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE PRESS PLAY.  
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